



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **Public Affairs**

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<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc>

### **District Man Found Guilty of 2007 Murder Over a Craps Game**

**Washington, D.C.** - Cyrus Harrison, a 23-year-old resident of the District of Columbia, was found guilty today, in D.C. Superior Court, in connection with the September 24, 2007 slaying of George Hill, in the 4500 block of Quarles Street, NE, Washington, D.C., Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced. In this retrial, the jury returned guilty verdicts of First Degree Murder while Armed, Obstruction of Justice, and related weapons offenses. Sentencing is scheduled for January 7, 2010 before Judge Herbert B. Dixon, Jr. At sentencing, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

According to evidence elicited at trial, the defendant was playing craps with Mr. Hill and others for several hours when the decedent decided to leave the game. At the time, the decedent had won nearly \$2,000, and the defendant had lost a considerable amount of money. Outraged that the decedent was leaving without giving him a chance to win back his money, the defendant retrieved a semiautomatic pistol and opened fire on him. The decedent unsuccessfully fled the barrage of gun fire and was shot, causing him to fall to the ground. The defendant then stood over the pleading decedent and emptied his weapon into him. On the night of the shooting, the defendant hid the murder weapon and changed his appearance by cutting his locks. Shortly before the first trial, the defendant attempted to intimidate a witness into not testifying for the government.

In announcing the jury's verdicts, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department, and particularly praised the work of Violent Crimes Branch Detectives Lee Littlejohn, George Blackwell and Kimberly Lawrence, and Sixth District Officer Andrew Dawidowicz. He also commended the work of Legal Assistant Kelly Blakeney, Litigation Technology Specialists Kimberly Smith and Leif Hickling, and Victim Witness Unit's Debbie Cannon who helped reassure the victim's family throughout the investigation and at trial by working tirelessly to address their security concerns. Finally, he praised the outstanding work of Assistant U.S. Attorney Lynn Haaland, who indicted the murder and firearm charges, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sharad Khandelwal, who indicted the obstruction of justice and conspiracy charges and prosecuted the case at trial.

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